Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The safety and well-being of children are important to this state; and,

Whereas, More than 200,000 children are injured on playgrounds in the United States each year equaling an average of one playground-related emergency room visit every 2½ minutes; and,

Whereas, The National Program for Playground Safety has been created at the University of Northern Iowa to help inform the nation about playground injuries and possible ways to reduce the number of injuries; and,

Whereas, The National Program for Playground Safety has identified key areas that could help substantially reduce the number of playground injuries and keep our children SAFE – providing: proper **S**upervision, **A**ge-appropriate equipment, materials to soften **F**alls to the surface, and **E**quipment maintenance; and,

Whereas, It is appropriate to set aside 1 week each year for the direction and thought on how to keep our children safer on playgrounds; and,

Whereas, Spring is a time when children head to the playground, and a large percentage of playground injuries occur from April through June each year; and,

Whereas, Schools, parks, and other public facilities are preparing for summer season and playground participants; and,

Whereas, All of us that care about children make the commitment that no South Dakota child shall play on an unsafe playground; and,

Whereas, The National Program for Playground Safety has designated April 25 – 29, 2005, as National Playground Safety Week:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 25-29, 2005, as

PLAYGOUND SAFETY WEEK

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to join in this important observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State